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9 July 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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*Argentina: While still incomplete, the unofficial returns of the 7 July elections suggest that Argentina's next president will be center-oriented.

Dr. Arturo Illia of the People's Radical Civic Union continues to hold a strong lead in popular votes over retired General Pedro Aramburu and Dr. Oscar Alende, but so far he lacks a majority of electoral votes. The presidential electors of the electoral college, who cast their votes on 31 July, are not legally committed to these candidates, however, and could at least in theory select any Argentine citizen who meets the qualifications for president.

The decrease in the blank vote from some 25 percent in 1960 to approximately 15 percent marks a sharp drop in prestige for both the Peronist leadership and for Peron, himself, who ordered his followers either to cast blank ballots, or undertake "revolutionary abstention." The reduction suggests that participation in the general strike called for 12 July by the Peronist-dominated General Confederation of Labor may also be reduced.

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*USSR - Communist China: The USSR and China apparently expect an early collapse of their secret talks and a further disintegration of relations.

The Soviet Central Committee statement published in Pravda today is an attempt to pin responsibility for such a development firmly on Peiping. The statement claims that the decision to hold the talks constituted an important agreement but accuses the Chinese of engaging in actions intended to make it impossible for them to succeed.

While charging that the Chinese are carrying on a "deliberate campaign" to worsen Sino-Soviet relations, with a disregard for the "dangerous consequences of such a policy," the statement disingenuously proclaims Soviet good faith by insisting that the Soviet party, "despite such unfriendly actions," will continue to strive to "overcome the difficulties."

The pretext for this latest Soviet tactical protest was a rally held in Peiping on 7 July in honor of the five Chinese thrown out of Moscow for distributing polemical literature. The rally, addressed by Foreign Minister Chen Yi and other high officials, was designed to justify the Chinese action and, in turn, blame the Soviets for "unreasonable" behavior.

These preparations by each side to blame the other for the failure of the talks, even while they are in progress, point up the hollow nature of the charade being played out in Moscow.

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Syria: The ouster of Chief of Staff Hariri yesterday is another political victory for the Baathist regime. However, the regime remains subject to challenge by both pro-Nasir and anti-Nasir elements, who retain considerable influence among political as well as military leaders.

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West Berlin: (Mayor Brandt probably had advance word of, and may have instigated, the meeting of a leading West Berlin Evangelical clergyman with Khrushchev on 3 July. In a two-hour talk in East Berlin, the clergyman asked Khrushchev for his help in re-uniting families separated by the Wall, and in holding joint synods of clergymen from East and West Germany. Khrushchev apparently tried to appear receptive, but merely promised to refer the problem to "appropriate" authorities--East Germans who have in the past blocked such measures.)

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Italy: The Leone all - Christian Democrat caretaker government--which won a Senate vote last Friday--will probably be confirmed by the Chamber late this week, with the Socialists, Social Democrats, and Republicans again abstaining. Socialist Party leader Nenni is reported by the embassy to believe that his internal party position has been strengthened by his talk with President Kennedy. Nevertheless, there are still serious policy differences within the Socialist Party on the question of cooperating with the Christian Democrats.

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